

2) Ex-servicemen/War widows.

3) Retired D.O.T. employees.

4) Women (Educated and unemployed).

5) SC/ST and other weaker sections of society.

Harnessing of Solar Energy in Rajasthan

2822. SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is enough scope of harnessing solar energy in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details of schemes so far implemented and the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Available data indicates that in many parts of Rajasthan, conditions are favourable for harnessing of solar energy.

(b) Various solar energy devices such as solar water heating systems, solar stills, solar cookers, solar street lighting systems, solar water pumping systems, solar community lighting and TV systems, small solar photovoltaic power plants, etc. have been/are being installed through Rajasthan Energy Development Agency and Rajasthan State Elec. Board under the extension and demonstration schemes of this Deptt. An amount of Rs. 11.60 crores has so far been released for these schemes by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

New Connections on out of Turn in Chandigarh

2823. SHRI RAM PRAKASH CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new connections sanctioned by the present Government for Chandigarh on out of turn basis;

(b) whether these have been installed;

(c) if not, the details of such connections which have not so far been installed and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to expedite the installation of these telephones at Chandigarh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) A total of 134 telephone connections have been sanctioned on out of turn priority basis for Chandigarh by the present Government.

(b) to (d). Out of 134 telephone connections sanctioned, 54 have already been installed; 15 are pending for want of payment details from the applicants; and the remaining 65 cases which were sanctioned recently are under the Process of installation. All the out of turn telephone sanctions processed on priority for installation subject to technical feasibility and completion of usual departmental formalities by the applicants.

Scheme to Help the Blind

2824. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce special scheme for the blind;